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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS.

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CROP PROSPECTS.

WINTER CEREALS.

Reports that the French wheat acreage is 20 per cent less than last year have appeared in American newspapers, accredited to Associated Press. This report is denied by the French Ministry of Agriculture, according to a cable received April 4 from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Official estimates of the acreage will not be released by the French Ministry until after April 27.

No new acreage estimates have been received during the week and the situation still shows a decrease of 4.5 per cent in the total for wheat and an increase of less than one per cent for rye.

HEMP.

Reports that the Italian hemp seed supply was short seem to have been exaggerated according to cabled information from the International Institute of Agriculture and American Consuls in Italy. Some seed shortage is reported but the crop is entirely planted and most sections report increases over last year. In the Ferrara district producing about 35 per cent of the Italian hemp, area is reported to be about 58,000 acres compared with 50,000 acres last year. The districts of Bologna, Naples and Caserta produce about 47 per cent of the total and while no acreage figures have been received from these sections increases are reported. The total Italian acreage last year was 148,000 acres, compared with 132,000 acres the preceeding year.

JAPANESE RICE CROP SMALLER.

Rice production in Japan in 1923 is now estimated at 8,712,499 short tons of cleaned rice, instead of 9,151,273 short tons as previously estimated for the same year, compared with 9,533,371 short tons in 1922.

JAPANESE RICE CROP SMALLER, -CONT'D.

The London Board of Trade Journal for March 20, 1924 in addition to the above information from the Official Gazette says that statements appearing in the Japanese press indicate that there is likely to be a deficit of over 300,000 short tons of rice during the present year and that this amount will have to be imported from abroad.

Associated with this question of deficit in supply is that of the import tariff on foreign rice, which has been remitted since September 12th. It is believed that the Government proposes to extend the period of free importation, which expires March 31, until October 31.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS GREATER IN VALUE.

The total value of the exports of the principal agricultural products from the United States for the eight months ending February 29, 1924, was nearly 100 million dollars greater than for the same period the preceeding year. Exports were valued at \$1,308,238,000 compared with \$1,233,716,000 for the same period one year ago. This is an increase of 6 per cent.

Although exports of grains and sugar continue definitely behind those of last year cotton and tobacco show marked increases indicating a somewhat greater demand for these commodities. The higher prices for cotton which have prevailed this season have played no little part in swelling the total value of all products exported.

Coupled with the higher values and increased exports of cotton, increases are seen in meats, canned milk and apples. Meat exports for the period under review were 14 per cent greater than last year with lard, hams, fresh pork and tallow leading in this improved movement. Exports of condensed and evaporated milk and of fresh and dried apples have been from 70 to 125 per cent larger than for the same period last year.

CUBAN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

The total Cuban sugar production up to March 29 as reported by Willett and Gray amounts to 2,870,000 short tons as compared with 2,734,000 short tons to the same date last year. 176 centrals continue at work although one central finished and another commenced grinding during the week. Three centrals have now completed grinding with a total production of 29,704 short tons as compared with a total outturn of 30,708 short tons for the same centrals during the 1922-23 campaign.

Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal, April 3, 1924.

CEREALS - ACREAGE SOWN IN THE AUTUMNS OF 1921, 1922 AND 1923.

Country.	Acreage sown.			1923	1923
	1921.	1922.	1923.	Decrease: from 1922.	Increase over 1922.
<u>WHEAT</u>	1,000 Acres:	1,000 Acres:	1,000 Acres:	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Estimates previously received and unrevised 13 countries re- porting.....	111,754	114,514	109,312	4.5	-
Estimates recently re- ceived.....	none	none	none	-	-
Total World acreage reported for all wheat	214,382	216,114	-	-	-
<u>RYE</u>					
Estimates previously received and unrevised 10 countries re- porting.....	25,200	24,439	24,584	-	.6
Estimated recently re- ceived.....	none	none	none	-	-
Total World acreage reported for all rye.....	47,140	45,921	-	-	-

Compiled from Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

WORLD SUGAR PRODUCTION IN TERMS OF RAW.

	1922-23.	1923-24.	
		Estimates previously published.	Latest Estimate.
	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.
New estimates received:			
Italy.....	299,519	339,000	347,000
Peru.....	351,390	364,000	336,000
World production.....	20,396,375	21,552,621	21,532,621

Economic and Trade Notes Rome, Italy, February 1924 quoting Italian Sugar Manufacturers. Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal, April, 3, 1924.

PORK PRODUCTION ABROAD.

Pork production in the most important hog raising countries of western Europe is still continuing on a high level, and there are as yet no indications that slaughtering is slowing up. Prices continue below the cost of production and it seems likely that marketing will continue heavy until the surplus of animals have been disposed of.

Danish export slaughterings for 1923 constitute a record for that country reaching their highest point in November when 334,409 hogs were killed. Figures are not available for 1924, but British imports of bacon from Denmark in February indicate that slaughterings during the month must have been nearly equal to that occurring in October and November.

Purchases of hogs by Irish bacon curers, although somewhat smaller than in the late fall are running more than 40 per cent above those of a year ago. The number of fat pigs coming to certain representative markets in England and Wales is reported to have dropped off considerably during January and February, and is below figures for a year ago. Nevertheless, domestic and Irish supplies of pork in the Central markets of London during those two months were more than double the supplies entering in the same period in 1923.

The German slaughtering situation is now more favorable than at any time since the war. Marketing of hogs continues to increase under the stimulus of stabilized currency, and the need of cash by farmers for taxes and other purposes. Germany has a considerable number of hogs for slaughter, and prices are still favorable to production though not by such a wide margin as existed in the fall. It seems probable that relatively heavy slaughter will continue for sometime yet provided that the currency remains stable.

SLAUGHTERING AND MARKETING OF HOGS ABROAD.

Month.	:Hogs slaughter- : ed for export : in Denmark.	:Hogs slaughter- : ed at 36 mar- : kets in Ger- : many.	: Pigs bought : for bacon curing : in Ireland.	:Fat pigs at : representative : markets in Eng- : land and Wales.
1923.	:	:	:	:
January.....	269,371	131,548	75,259	44,768
February.....	240,279	97,149	58,757	41,984
March.....	239,018	136,901	63,289	51,531
April.....	263,908	122,222	74,584	41,536
May.....	334,917	128,118	88,162	39,512
June.....	248,754	121,391	70,084	37,787
July.....	294,472	99,064	44,787	28,112
August.....	299,328	64,149	56,875	35,822
September.....	281,480	58,633	57,801	51,226
October.....	334,409	66,177	121,768	58,263
November.....	341,437	69,463	148,444	53,665
December.....	266,976	139,969	94,368	48,430
1924				
January.....	-	178,239	107,607	38,992
February.....	-	193,013	85,577	27,251

GRAINS: EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, JULY 1 - APRIL 5, 1922-23, 1923-24
AND FROM PRINCIPAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES JULY 1 - FEBRUARY 29, 1922-23 AND 1923-24.

Commodity.		1924					
		: July 1	: July 1	: Week	: Week	: Week	
		: 1922 to	: 1923 to	: ending	: ending	: ending	
		: Unit: April 7	: April 5	: March 22	: March 29	: April 5	
		: 1923	: 1924	: Prelim.	: Prelim.	: Prelim.	
Exports from the U. S.		: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	
Barley.....	Bu.	17,038:	9,320:	220:	33:	53	
Corn.....	"	82,872:	15,902:	848:	600:	760	
Oats.....	"	17,581:	1,038:	2:	1:	1	
Rye.....	"	40,911:	9,903:	-	69:	173	
Wheat.....	"	131,620:	66,830:	b/ 240:	b/ 952:	b/ 748	
Wheat flour.....	Bbls: a/	10,497:	a/ 12,656:	:	:	:	
Wheat, including flour.....	Bu.	178,856:	123,782:	:	:	:	
In transit shipments from		:	:	:	:	:	
Canada:		:	:	:	:	:	
Wheat.....	Bu.	88,590:	95,163:	2,665:	930:	2,091	
Wheat flour.....	Bbls: a/	1,979:	a/ 3,314:	:	:	:	
c/ Exports from Canada:		: July - February	:	:	:	:	
Wheat.....	Bu.	180,754:	204,120:	:	:	:	
Wheat flour.....	Bbls:	7,112:	7,935:	:	:	:	
Wheat, including flour.....	Bu.	212,757:	239,830:	:	:	:	
Exports from Argentina:		:	:	:	:	:	
Wheat, including flour.....	Bu.	79,394:	78,482:	:	:	:	
Corn.....	"	75,858:	70,340:	:	:	:	
Exports from British India:		:	:	:	:	:	
Wheat, including flour.....	Bu.	9,127:	11,918:	:	:	:	
Exports from Australia:		:	:	:	:	:	
Wheat, including flour.....	Bu.	26,416:	48,290:	:	:	:	
Exports - Total United States:		:	:	:	:	:	
Canada, Argentina, British	:	:	:	:	:	:	
India, and Australia.....	Bu.	486,077:	478,313:	:	:	:	
Imports into the U.S.		:	:	:	:	:	
Wheat.....	Bu.	13,788:	20,189:	:	:	:	
Wheat flour.....	Bbls:	345:	264:	:	:	:	
Wheat, including flour.....	Bu.	15,343:	21,375:	:	:	:	

Compiled from Monthly Summaries of Foreign Commerce of the United States and other preliminary reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Monthly Reports of the Trade of Canada, Estadistic Agro-Pecuaría, Argentina, Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics 1922-23, International Crop Reports of the International Institute of Agriculture for January and February, Monthly Reports of Land and Sea Trade of British India, and Broomhall's Corn Trade News.

a/ From July 1 to February 29. Not reported weekly from Atlantic Coast Ports.

b/ Includes "Via Pacific Ports."

c/ Includes "In transit shipments from Canada."

EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED STATES FROM JULY 1 TO
FEBRUARY 29, 1922-1923 AND 1923-1924.

Article exported.	Quantity 1922-23	Quantity 1923-24	Value 1922-23	Value 1923-24
			Dollars	Dollars
Wheat.....Bu.:	126,491,738:	64,302,763:	156,022,587:	71,682,267
Wheat flour.....Bbls.:	10,496,562:	12,638,656:	58,890,784:	64,762,255
Wheat incl. flour.....Bu.:	173,726,267:	121,176,715:	214,913,371:	136,444,522
Corn incl. meal.....Bu.:	75,721,860:	14,086,964:	59,027,308:	13,243,414
Rye incl. flour.....Bu.:	39,530,103:	11,658,767:	36,509,986:	9,128,049
Barley excluding flour..Bu.:	15,745,977:	8,573,097:	11,545,245:	6,530,706
Oats incl. oatmeal.....Bu.:	21,401,924:	7,926,533:	11,279,679:	4,736,232
Buckwheat incl. flour...Bu.:	159,427:	88,164:	180,982:	92,263
Rice incl. flour, meal, and broken rice.....lbs.:	241,350,987:	186,770,442:	8,974,302:	7,381,516
Dairy Products:				
Butter.....lbs.:	7,161,825:	3,388,630:	2,761,738:	1,580,836
Cheese.....lbs.:	2,772,422:	2,546,919:	739,371:	723,779
Milk:				
Condensed.....lbs.:	28,314,178:	44,393,991:	3,887,087:	6,569,657
Evaporated.....lbs.:	63,182,297:	116,021,677:	5,669,386:	11,300,146
Powdered.....lbs.:	2,086,152:	1,617,974:	333,733:	386,678
Meat & Meat Products:				
Canned beef.....lbs.:	1,681,944:	1,128,153:	469,176:	262,785
Fresh beef & veal....lbs.:	2,891,208:	2,145,738:	430,965:	355,278
Pickled beef.....lbs.:	16,217,475:	14,745,460:	1,457,278:	1,452,775
Oleo oil.....lbs.:	69,052,030:	59,694,200:	7,708,428:	7,280,805
Oleomargarine.....lbs.:	1,321,939:	871,486:	209,152:	140,057
Stearin & fatty acids.lbs.:	13,431,431:	11,070,995:	1,295,551:	1,126,498
Tallow.....lbs.:	15,461,547:	26,316,425:	1,195,703:	2,089,878
Canned pork.....lbs.:	1,317,294:	1,681,718:	465,494:	440,365
Fresh pork.....lbs.:	30,776,569:	41,703,242:	4,863,282:	5,954,847
Pickled pork.....lbs.:	29,425,747:	28,419,131:	3,580,413:	3,280,536
Bacon.....lbs.:	269,777,186:	328,377,570:	41,249,639:	41,883,053
Hams & shoulders.....lbs.:	198,776,080:	262,716,878:	36,406,677:	41,003,763
Lard.....lbs.:	600,175,512:	718,742,140:	73,102,847:	93,524,753
Lard, neutral.....lbs.:	17,087,482:	14,752,705:	2,247,420:	2,049,524
Lard oil.....lbs.:	565,394:	521,646:	66,772:	59,363
Lard compounds.....lbs.:	8,814,875:	4,647,853:	1,070,207:	643,363
Mutton & lamb.....lbs.:	1,126,419:	1,184,631:	213,145:	218,217
Sausage, canned.....lbs.:	1,848,609:	2,013,834:	479,331:	573,621
Sausage, other.....lbs.:	4,653,240:	5,473,325:	1,224,332:	1,346,137
Sausage casings.....lbs.:	14,758,437:	17,989,719:	3,493,089:	3,580,408
Total meat and meat products..lbs.:	1,299,160,358:	1,544,196,849:	181,228,901:	207,266,026

EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED STATES FROM JULY 1 TO
FEBRUARY 29, 1922-1923 AND 1923-1924.

Article exported.	: Quantity : 1922-23	: Quantity : 1923-24	: Value : 1922-23	: Value : 1923-24
			Dollars	Dollars
Sugar.....Short tons..	211,067:	32,304:	13,566,722:	4,427,341
Cotton(500 lb. bales).....	4,266,271:	4,679,633:	516,788,887:	721,836,322
Tobacco, leaf.....lbs..	295,162,131:	345,591,723:	105,158,967:	117,093,129
Glucose(corn syrup)....lbs..	88,962,689:	85,422,287:	2,586,636:	2,969,766
Starch, corn.....lbs..	176,834,273:	142,166,018:	4,531,328:	4,546,436
Hops.....lbs..	6,298,777:	10,990,795:	877,201:	3,546,224
Cottonseed cake & meal lbs..	384,636,926:	179,358,441:	8,392,623:	3,878,936
Linseed cake & meal....lbs..	337,124,734:	309,803,146:	7,499,653:	6,450,516
Cottonseed oil.....lbs..	50,519,752:	28,730,155:	4,924,472:	3,005,315
Fruits:				
Apples, fresh.....Boxes..	2,991,872:	4,719,371:	5,515,190:	10,274,343
Apples, fresh.....Barrels..	565,180:	1,688,114:	2,561,032:	7,849,604
Apples, dried.....lbs..	11,715,773:	25,457,778:	1,345,469:	2,697,552
Prunes.....lbs..	70,210,162:	75,755,581:	6,665,948:	5,238,500
Apricots.....lbs..	9,933,163:	26,538,557:	2,403,493:	2,879,243
Raisins.....lbs..	79,969,133:	55,940,821:	8,847,425:	6,160,681
GRAND TOTAL.....			:1,233,716,135	130 8,237,732

COMPILED FROM: Official Reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

AMERICAN RAISINS IN CHINA.

Twenty years ago the sale of American raisins in all of Southern China did not exceed 1,000 boxes of 45 lbs. each. These sales were practically confined to the foreign residents of Hongkong. Dealers at Hongkong report that the 1924 sales in Hongkong will probably exceed 50,000 cases, practically 90 percent of which will be imported from the United States and the balance from Australia says Consul General William H. Gale.

Fully 90 percent of the Hongkong imports are reexported to interior points. The reasons for the large increase in sales are that by persistent advertising and the adoption of satisfactory sales methods on the part of American exporters the native Chinese were gradually educated to the use of raisins as a sweetmeat. The raisins are shipped to representatives of American firms in Hongkong who, in turn, place distribution and sales in the hands of well known Chinese firms having connections in Canton Amoy, Foochow, Wuchow and other cities.

BUTTER AND CHEESE INDUSTRY IN RUSSIA, 1923.

The re-appearance of Russian dairy produce on the foreign markets has been welcomed by the older English firms that used to buy Siberian butter in former years and has induced them to look forward to big supplies of Siberian butter, which was replaced during the war, and in the post-war period by increased importations of New Zealand and Argentine produce. Approximately 100,000 casks of Siberian butter were exported during the year 1923. This represents less than 10 per cent of the pre-war production; but the revival of former trade relations and the influx of British capital will give an impetus to this branch of Siberian agriculture.

The cheese-making industry in Western Siberia is of recent origin, the factories being concentrated chiefly in the Altay District. Nearly all the cheese-making factories belong to cooperative societies.

Number of butter and cheese factories belonging to the System of the All Russian Central Union of Consumer's Societies and their estimated output for the year 1923.

	Butter Factories		Cheese Factories	
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
<u>European Russia</u>				
Vologda	260	1,517,000	5	180,000
Cherepovetz	105	542,000	-	-
Ekaterinburg	100	903,000	-	-
Rubinsk	113	361,000	30	181,000
Yaroslavl	15	90,000	2	54,000
Total	593	3,413,000	37	415,000
<u>Western Siberia</u>				
Altay	502	3,611,000	40	1,445,000
Novonikolaevsk	200	1,444,000	15	289,000
Omsk	200	903,000	-	-
Semipalatinsk	80	542,000	-	-
Almolinsk	113	181,000	-	-
Tomsk	93	361,000	14	72,000
Enisseysk	12	108,000	3	18,000
Total	1,200	7,150,000	72	1,824,000
Grand Total	1,793	10,563,000	109	2,239,000

Cold Storage and Produce Review, London, March 20, 1924, p. 86, quoting H. P. Cox representative of Centrosojus.

CHINESE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Dairymen find an increasing demand in China for cow's milk, both because of the increasing number of foreigners here and the growing number of Chinese who understand the value of dairy products as food. Some dairies have been serving customers for a number of years, and other dairy farms are being started.

Foreign dairies in Shanghai find it best to import animals of foreign stock, as they give richer milk and larger quantities than do cows which have not been subject to the many generations of selective breeding which the European strains have undergone.

In Shanghai the health department of the International and the French Concessions have regulation for inspecting and licensing dairies. To pass the Shanghai Health Department's test, milk must contain a minimum of 8.5 per cent of non-fatty solids. The minimum of fat required is 3.25 per cent.

Experiments have been carried out in the South of China at the Canton Christain College with the idea of discovering if it may not be feasible to use water buffaloes as milk-producing animals. The milk of the water buffalo is pure white and butter made from the milk is the same color. It is wholesome and palatable when produced under sanitary conditions. Students and teachers, both European and Chinese, at the College prefer buffalo milk to cow's milk. One of the reasons, perhaps, why few buffalo cows are used for dairy purposes in China is that they give but little milk, and while the milk contains about three and one-half times as much fat and nearly twice as much total solids as does cow's milk, it usually sells for the same price. Animals which were selected from herds of ordinary buffalo cows, produce as much as 10 pounds of milk a day for several months.

China is becoming a consumer of condensed milk, although it is yet a luxury for most Chinese. Several companies which import milk are attempting in Shanghai and elsewhere to advertise their product to the middle and lower classes.

Chinese Economic Monthly, No. 4, January 1924, page 21.

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SWEDISH BACON EXPORTS IN 1923.

Swedish exports of bacon in 1923 amounted to 34,080,819 pounds against 24,244,202 pounds in 1922, an increase of 40 percent, or nearly as much relatively, as the increase in Danish trade during the year. Sweden also imported considerable quantities of foreign bacon and pork, most of it from the United States. These were about the same in 1923 as in 1922, amounting to 12,223,193 pounds and 11,957,034 pounds respectively.

Smor Tidende - January 25, 1924.

FRENCH MILK PRODUCTION 1913, 1921, 1922, 1923.

(Present boundaries).

Item.	1913.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Thousand Gallons	Thousand Gallons	Thousand Gallons	Thousand Gallons
Production of cow's milk	3,383,299	2,813,504	2,992,438	3,091,796
Quantity used to feed calves.....	765,735	-	-	674,606
Quantity used for butter.....	1,145,684	-	-	1,029,538
Quantity used for cheese.....	385,409	-	-	589,899

Ministere de L'Agriculture - Direction de l'Agriculture - Office de Renseignements Agricoles. Enquete Relative a la Production du Lait - Published in Journal Official de la Republique Francaise March 14, 1924, page 2524.

NEW ZEALAND DAIRY INDUSTRY ON THE INCREASE.

That farming is on the increase in New Zealand is shown by recently published statistics. The total number of persons employed on farms during 1922-23 was 146,380, as against 135,395 during 1921-22, and increase of 10,985, or nearly 8 per cent. Four-fifths of this increase took place in the dairy industry, which represents the largest section of rural employment in New Zealand. The total number employed in dairying were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Totals
1921-22	47,293	21,363	68,661
1922-23	52,230	25,334	77,564
Increase	4,932	3,971	8,903

The number of persons employed in agriculture amounted to 14,823 males and 3,594 females, while pastoral and unspecified rural pursuits numbered 39,897 males and 9,502 females. The large increase of female employees in the dairy industry is rather significant.

The New Zealand Dairyman, February 20, 1924, page 24.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK IN IRELAND IN 1923.

A return has just been issued showing the number of livestock in Irish Free State (an estimate for Northern Ireland having been previously issued) so that totals for the whole of Ireland are now available.

Number of Livestock in Ireland in 1923 Compared with 1922 and 1913.

Livestock.	June 1913.	June 1922.	1923.
Cattle.....	4,933,000	5,157,000	4,989,000
Swine.....	1,060,000	1,037,000	1,346,000
Sheep.....	3,621,000	3,567,000	3,529,000
Goats.....	246,000	250,000	a
Horses.....	614,000	544,000	a
Mules.....	30,000	26,000	a
Asses.....	243,000	232,000	a

a. Not yet available.

Agricultural Market Report March 14, 1924, page 2.

NEW ZEALAND'S LAMBING SEASON SHOWS FAVORABLE RESULTS.

Year.	Number of breeding ewes.	Estimated average percent- age of lambing.	Estimated number of lambs.	Actual number of lambs tailed.
1920.....	11,568,549	84.11	9,730,950	9,614,548
1921.....	12,147,783	86.59	10,513,780	10,267,910
1922.....	12,496,054	86.77	10,843,005	10,895,521
1923.....	13,063,003	88.02	11,496,456	-

Dominion of New Zealand.

CANADIAN FLAX SEED MARKET.

There was a sluggish demand for Canadian flax seed during the month of February, says Consul Dudley Swyre at Fort William and Port Arthur. The American demand which governs the Canadian market was particularly low owing to the large crop in Argentina. The total inspections of the 1923 crop up to March 1, 1924, amounted to 3,995,000 bushels which indicates that more than 3,000,000 bushels still remained in country elevators or in farmers' hands on March 1, since the final estimate of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics placed the total crop at 7,000,000 bushels. Total receipts of Canadian flax seed at Fort William and Port Arthur during the first six months of the 1923-24 crop year (from September 1, 1923 to February 29, 1924) amounted to 3,465,000 bushels as compared with 2,225,000 bushels for the corresponding months of the previous season. Total shipments from those points during that period amounted to 3,409,000 bushels as compared with 2,047,000 bushels for the first half of the previous season.

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